

## CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of formatting information within a directory tree structure comprising the steps of:
- performing a search by utilizing a selective one or more search methodologies including keyword search, hierarchical search, dichotomous key search, and parametric search to correlate a search criteria to a searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein the searchable database is formatted in the directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a collection of related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, and further wherein each matching item represents a node from within the directory tree structure;
  - selecting one of the matching items;
  - formatting the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry; and
  - displaying the encyclopedia-like entry corresponding to the node of the selected matching item.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the encyclopedia-like entry includes text, graphics, links to related topics within the directory tree structure, links to related web sites external to the directory tree structure, or any combination thereof.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein when the utilized search methodology is the keyword search, the search criteria is one or more keywords input by a user.
4. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein when the utilized search methodology is the hierarchical search, the search criteria is a selected one of a list of one or more directory items.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein when the utilized search methodology is the dichotomous key search, the search criteria is a selected one of two binary items.
6. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein when the utilized search methodology is the parametric search, the search criteria is one or more set parameters, and further wherein the parameters are set by a user.
7. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the searchable database is distributed into more than one physical location.
8. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the steps of performing a search and formatting the collection of related data are performed by a server.
9. The method as claimed in claim 8 further comprising the step of establishing an internet connection with the server to perform the search and to format the collection of related data.
10. The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the internet connection is established with a computer system at a remote location from the server.
11. An organization system for formatting information within a directory tree structure comprising an organization server configured to perform a search by utilizing a selective one or more search methodologies including keyword search, hierarchical search, dichotomous key search, and parametric search to correlate a search criteria to a searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein the searchable database is formatted in the directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a collection of related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, wherein each matching item represents a node from within the directory tree structure, to select one of the matching items, to format the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry, and to display the encyclopedia-like entry corresponding to the node of the selected matching item.

12. The organization system as claimed in claim 11 wherein the encyclopedia-like entry includes text, graphics, links to related topics within the directory tree structure, links to related web sites external to the directory tree structure, or any combination thereof.

13. The organization system as claimed in claim 11 wherein when the utilized search methodology is the keyword search, the search criteria is one or more keywords input by a user.

14. The organization system as claimed in claim 11 wherein when the utilized search methodology is the hierarchical search, the search criteria is a selected one of a list of one or more directory items.

15. The organization system as claimed in claim 11 wherein when the utilized search methodology is the dichotomous key search, the search criteria is a selected one of two binary items.

16. The organization system as claimed in claim 11 wherein when the utilized search methodology is the parametric search, the search criteria is one or more set parameters, and further wherein the parameters are set by a user.

17. The research system as claimed in claim 11 further comprising an interface circuit coupled to the organization server to establish a connection with a computer system.

18. The research system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the connection is established with the computer system at a remote location from the interface circuit.

19. The research system as claimed in claim 18 wherein the connection is established with the remote computer system and the interface circuit over the internet to allow users to access the organization system, to utilize the search methodologies to perform the research task, and to format the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry.

20. An organization system for formatting information within a directory tree structure comprising:

- a. means for performing a search by utilizing a selective one or more search methodologies including keyword search, hierarchical search, dichotomous key search, and parametric search to correlate a search criteria to a searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein the searchable database is formatted in the directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a collection of related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, and further wherein each matching item represents a node from within the directory tree structure;
- b. means for selecting one of the matching items;
- c. means for formatting the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry; and
- d. means for displaying the encyclopedia-like entry corresponding to the node of the selected matching item.

21. The organization system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the encyclopedia-like entry includes text, graphics, links to related topics within the directory tree structure, links to related web sites external to the directory tree structure, or any combination thereof.

22. The organization system as claimed in claim 20 wherein when the utilized search methodology is the keyword search, the search criteria is one or more keywords input by a user.

23. The organization system as claimed in claim 20 wherein when the utilized search methodology is the hierarchical search, the search criteria is a selected one of a list of one or more directory items.

24. The organization system as claimed in claim 20 wherein when the utilized search methodology is the dichotomous key search, the search criteria is a selected one of two binary items.

25. The organization system as claimed in claim 20 wherein when the utilized search methodology is the parametric search, the search criteria is one or more set parameters, and further wherein the parameters are set by a user.
26. The organization system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the searchable database is distributed into more than one physical location.
27. The organization system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the means for performing a search and formatting the collection of related data are performed by a server.
28. The organization system as claimed in claim 27 further comprising means for establishing an internet connection with the server to perform the search and to format the collection of related data.
29. The organization system as claimed in claim 28 wherein the internet connection is established with a computer system at a remote location from the server.
30. An organization system for formatting information within a directory tree structure comprising:
- a. one or more computer systems configured to communicate with other systems; and
  - b. an organization server configured to couple to the one or more computer systems to perform a search by utilizing a selective one or more search methodologies including keyword search, hierarchical search, dichotomous key search, and parametric search to correlate a search criteria to a searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein the searchable database is formatted in the directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a collection of related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, and further wherein each matching item represents a node from within the directory tree structure, to select one of the matching items, to format the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected

matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry, and to display the encyclopedia-like entry corresponding to the node of the selected matching item.

31. The network of devices as claimed in claim 30 wherein the encyclopedia-like entry includes text, graphics, links to related topics within the directory tree structure, links to related web sites external to the directory tree structure, or any combination thereof.

32. The network of devices as claimed in claim 30 wherein when the utilized search methodology is the keyword search, the search criteria is one or more keywords input by a user.

33. The network of devices as claimed in claim 30 wherein when the utilized search methodology is the hierarchical search, the search criteria is a selected one of a list of one or more directory items.

34. The network of devices as claimed in claim 30 wherein when the utilized search methodology is the dichotomous key search, the search criteria is a selected one of two binary items.

35. The network of devices as claimed in claim 30 wherein when the utilized search methodology is the parametric search, the search criteria is one or more set parameters, and further wherein the parameters are set by a user.

36. The network of devices as claimed in claim 30 wherein the one or more computer systems and the organization server are coupled together over the internet to allow users to access the organization system, to utilize the search methodologies to perform the research task, and to format the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry.

37. A method of formatting information within a directory tree structure comprising the steps of:

- a. performing a search by utilizing a selective one or more search methodologies including keyword search, hierarchical search, dichotomous key search, and parametric search to correlate a search criteria to a searchable database for

generating one or more matching items, wherein the searchable database is formatted in the directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a collection of related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, and further wherein each matching item represents a node from within the directory tree structure;

- b. selecting one of the matching items;
- c. formatting the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry, wherein the encyclopedia-like entry includes text, graphics, links to related topics within the directory tree structure, links to related web sites external to the directory tree structure, or any combination thereof; and
- d. displaying the encyclopedia-like entry corresponding to the node of the selected matching item.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50